

A NEW *RHYSSOPLAX*.

By A. F. Basset Hull.

When seeking material for a coloured plate of the different species of *Rhyssoplax* (*Chiton*), I experienced some difficulty in obtaining a specimen of *R. bednalli* Pilsbry, which is, perhaps, the rarest of the genus. The type shell is, I understand, in England. Dr. W. G. Torr, of Brighton, South Australia, kindly lent me one fine specimen, but learning that there was a better one in the Adelaide Museum, I applied to the Trustees for permission to examine it. On receipt of this shell I was surprised to find that it differed in such a degree from Dr. Torr's specimen as to constitute a distinct species. I then applied to the Trustees for permission to figure and describe the new shell, which was readily granted. The description and figures were forwarded to the Trustees for a decision as to publication, but were returned to me with an intimation that Messrs. Ashby, W. L. May and Dr. Torr, were of opinion that the shell was conspecific with *Rhyssoplax bednalli* Pilsbry.

I nevertheless publish the description, being of opinion that the shell shows sufficient variation from Pilsbry's shell to entitle it to recognition.

*RHYSSOPLAX SURRECTA*, n. sp. Plate XXIVB., Figs. 1-8.

Shell very long, narrow and elevated, carinated. Ground colour white, flecked with pale reddish-brown on the lateral areas and beaks of median valves; central areas washed with pale green, flecks of the same colour appearing on the jugal tract.

Anterior valve having twenty-six rows of more or less diamond-shaped pits, increasing in size and sometimes bifurcating towards the margin, the surface thus having the appearance of radiating riblets intersected by concentric lirae. The apex of the valve is thrown slightly forward. Valve half as long as the posterior valve.

Median valves beaked, lateral areas deeply furrowed, the furrow containing indications of additional grooves, in some cases one, and in others (notably valve ii) two, the number of additional grooves not corresponding on the opposite lateral areas of the same valves. The raised edges of the furrows are deeply corrugated, imparting a serrated appearance to the posterior margins of the valves. Central areas with eight to ten high ribs extending across the area, except as regards the two nearest the jugum, the ribs almost as wide as the interstices separating them.

Posterior valve with sculpture of radiating rows of pits, similar to those on the anterior valve, twenty-nine being indicated on the margin of the posterior area; eight ribs in the anterior area. Mucro very prominent, behind the centre.

Girdle scales large, irregularly oval, striated, not highly polished.

Dimensions, 35 x 12 mm.; height 8 mm. The girdle of the type is very much contracted, and perhaps the width of a well-preserved specimen would be relatively greater.

Station; probably in deep water.

Type in the Adelaide Museum.

Mr. Edwin Ashby informs me that the history of this shell is that it was discovered by Mr. W. J. Kimber, of Adelaide, who was collecting many years ago at the end of a reef at Port Willunga at lowest tide. He noticed a *Chiton* floating foot upwards on the water, and upon securing the specimen he identified it as *R. bednalli* Pilsbry. The animal was in the shell, and was removed by Mr. Kimber. In colour this shell closely resembles Pilsbry's species, but it may be described as generally bolder, heavier and coarser in sculpture than *R. bednalli*, the figures in which the two shells are shown in detail expressing the differences more clearly than it is possible to convey in a verbal description.

Explanation of Plate XXIVB., Figs. 1-8.

1. *Rhyssoplax surrecta*, anterior valve.
2. " " one-half of a median valve.
3. " " posterior valve.
4. " " girdle scales.
5. *Rhyssoplax bednalli*, anterior valve.
6. " " one-half of a median valve.
7. " " posterior valve.
8. " " girdle scales.